

would often with difficulty be converted into hay: and with still more difficulty would that conversion take place should it during the process, as is most likely to happen, be exposed to rain. The same difficulty would occur, but attended with much more serious effects, in the case of sheaves of wheat or barley, which having been once drenched with rain would be rendered unfit for producing bread, unless the moisture were soon dissipated: and with respect to the process of reducing the corn itself to the state of meal, that is, in common language, of grinding it; although many other mechanical means are capable of being applied to that purpose, who does not see the advantages of the common windmill, even where other means are available, which in many places they would not be? but windmills would themselves be unavailable, were there no currents of air to set them in motion.

In the drying of moistened linen, and of paper newly made; in the seasoning, as it is called, of wood; and on numerous other occasions, the same advantages occur from the same cause, and are explicable in the same way. But there is one instance, of very familiar occurrence, where the effect of a free ventilation is productive of the greatest comfort. At the breaking up of a long protracted frost, during which the air has been enabled to absorb and retain in